

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 052576

72

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TO AMEMBASSY OSLO IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO

CINCLANT

CINCUSNAVEUR

CINCEUR

USNMR SHAPE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 052576

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS:TGEN,SV, UR, NO

SUBJECT:SOVIET-NORWEGIAN NEGOTIATIONS ON ARCTIC SCIENTIFIC
RESEARCH

1. IN DEVELOPING RELATIONSHIPS IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY,
THE SOVIET APPROACH IS HEAVILY BUREAUCRATIC. THEIR
REGULAR PATTERN IS TO OPERATE THROUGH A HEIRARCHY OF
JOINT COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS. THIS SORT OF
ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE IS TOP-HEAVY, AND USUALLY SLOW
AND CLUMSY IN OPERATION, EVEN IN MATTERS IN WHICH IT WOULD
APPEAR TO BE IN THE SOVIET INTEREST TO ACT WITH MORE
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PAGE 02 STATE 052576

DESPATCH. PROGRESS REQUIRES A CONSIDERABLE INVESTMENT

OF FIRMNESS, TIME AND PATIENCE. NEVERTHELESS, OUR EXPERIENCE IN DEALING WITH THE SOVIETS UNDER THE VARIOUS TECHNICAL AGREEMENTS HAS BEEN GENERALLY SATISFACTORY DURING THE PRESENT PHASE OF PROJECT DEFINITION AND PLANNING. WE HAVE FOUND IT PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT TO ESTABLISH AND ADHERE TO A LIST OF PRIORITY PROJECTS OF INTEREST TO US, AND TO INSIST ON RECIPROCITY ON IMPORTANT SUBSTANTIVE AND ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES. OUR EXPERIENCE WITH THE SOVIETS ON ARCTIC SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH HAS BEEN EXTREMELY LIMITED ALTHOUGH IN THE PAST YEAR THEY HAVE SHOWN SIGNS OF GREATER INTEREST IN COOPERATION.

2. WE DO NOT KNOW WHERE THE POLAR INSTITUTE FITS INTO THE NORWEGIAN SCHEME OF THINGS, BUT WOULD TEND TO THINK THAT IT MIGHT BE MORE APPROPRIATE TO CONCLUDE AN AGREEMENT OR MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE POLAR INSTITUTE AND "SEVMORGEO" IN EFFORT TO AVOID POSSIBLE ORGANIZATIONAL IMBALANCE. WE NOTE ALSO THAT THE PROPOSED DRAFT AGREEMENT DOES NOT PROVIDE FOR ANY PERIOD OF VALIDITY OR TERMINATION PROCEDURES, WHICH MIGHT BE USEFUL ADDITIONS.

3. EMBASSY MOSCOW MAY HAVE FURTHER THOUGHTS WHICH IT MIGHT WISH, IF APPROPRIATE, TO CONVEY TO NORWEGIANS. KISSINGER

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